

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated April 3, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed. Applicant appreciates the indication by the Examiner that claims 6, 7, 13 and 14 recite allowable subject matter and claims 17-22 are allowed.

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 8-12 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FIGs. 1-2 of acknowledged related art (hereinafter "ARA") in view of Japanese Publication No. JP09-138417 (hereinafter "417"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-12 and 15-16 and request consideration.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 6, and independent claim 8 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 13. In addition, claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 1 and claim 14 has been amended to depend from claim 8.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1 and claims 2-5 and 7, which depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 1 are allowable over the cited references and that claim 8 and claims 9-12 and 14-16, which depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 8 are allowable over the cited references.


Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: **3 July 2007**

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